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Gender Identity Center Of Colorado
3715 W. 32nd Ave. Denver, CO. 80211

10-05-93

Newsletter Editor : Pamela

Dear Pamela,

I wanted to respond to your editorial in Octobers issue called Not Included. That figures that the new health plan won't include SRS for transsexuals. I never looked into it because I just assumed the health plan wouldn't include such things. Do you know if it will include doctor visits and blood testing for us ??? That would be great if it would. I blood tests are definately cramping my budget.

I agree with alot of what you say in your article, and I understand what you about calling our problem a Disease. The scarey part about transsexualism being Disease is that, once our condition is labled as such, we will have very little control over how the disease is treated. We are sort of seen but not heard by the medical profession. If we are to be labled as having a disease will it be a physical or mental disease ??

The point I'm trying to make is : You have probably seen or heard of places like Summit Ministries here in C. Spgs., They claim they can successfully through therapy cure the disease of homosexuality and change a gay person into a straight person. Of coarse that's nonsence, but think about if the AMA decided to apply this practice to treating the disease of a transsexual. This is an extreme example, but labling T.S.'s as having a mental disease could have somewhat scarey consequences.

Just to be technical I prefer to think of transsexualism as a " **Physical Medical Condition**" which occoured at birth , progressed throughout life, and is curable through Hormonal and Surgical processes.
The only thing wrong with our brains is that life can be tough for a chick with a dick. We are girls who have been born and raised by society as men !, and this is the cause of any mental problems we may suffer. !

I once said to a female medical doctor " Imagine that during the next year , month by month your skin became tough, you grew a thick beard, a beer belly, and male genitals. " How would you then feel about yourself ?" You would feel awful of coarse ! You would want to fix this problem right away . Think how you would feel when you walked out your front door to conduct lifes everyday duties in todays society.

Then I asked " Now how would you feel when you visited your doctor and was told, " " We can't fix this problem you have until a mental health profes been convinced that your sure you want to make this change, and will put their on the line, just in case you decide to sue me later down the road I can blame "

Then telling your doctor " I don't want to wait, I want to be again, and I can't afford several months of therapy, I just don't have the money, but I can afford the inexpencive prescription that will make me get better.! " Your doctor then says to you " e you sure this isn't ju t some fetish of yours that you want to get rid of the great male features you now have? " You will just have to l as you are for now because the Harry Benjamine Standards of Care says you do ! " Cute Story HUH !

Thanks very much GIC for sending me your newsletter.

Sincerely *Christy Hopping*

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10/8/93

To: All Transgenderists & Transsexuals

Let us please take time to review the directions the Transgenderist & Transsexual Community is heading in our Equal Rights movements : our Unification with the Gay Community movement : and our movement for the Revision and Modernization of our current Standards of Care.

The big burr under the saddle of all three of these movements is that we cannot agree on the subject of exactly who we are, and what we are. The ways we view ourselves as well as the way the general public views us, how we think they view us, and the way in which we would like to be viewed by the majority. We have reached the point where we must make a decision on these issues as a community to stop undermining of our activists worthy efforts.

First we need to decide on just how we would like ourselves to be viewed from a medical standpoint. Do we want to be seen as mentally ill , or suffering a sickness, or handicapped : Or would we rather be seen as regular ordinary people who's self beings are of the opposite gender than that of our body. If we are women between the ears as we say we are , then wouldn't it be reasonable to say that our problem is of the body and not the mind?

If we are to be seen as having a type of disease or mental disorder , then wouldn't it be reasonable to say we can be cured by a mental health professional and surgery is not necessary? To Quote Dr. Manning Marable, professor of History & Political science, and director of African American Studies Institute " Wouldn't this give justification to to the assertion that this is a lifestyle choice, or perverse form of behavior"?

Dr. Marable further says " Until two decades ago the American Psychiatric Association listed Homosexuality as a type of disease or mental disorder. It was only several years ago that serious scholarship focused on the possible biological and genetic differences which seperate heterosexuals and homosexuals. " " If being gay or lesbian is partially due to involuntary inheritance- like the color of ones skin, then much of the conservative christians attacks against gays would be undermined." " To discriminate against a person for having charastics for which she or he has no direct control is irrational and illogical."

" Quote." In a conservative political environment , a government might even try launching a scientific campaign to isolate the genetic differences between gays & straights in order to find a cure for homosexuality" .

Can you see how this can be easily applied to transsexuals and transgenderists. When the gays were labled as having a mental disorder they had little proof that it wasn't a lifestyle choice, but something they were born with.
The gay & transgendered people are waiting for medical science to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that who and what we are in a product of genetics, and not a kinky bedroom activity. Many Transsexuals studies now show we have a different HY Antigen responce, and that 50 % of us show abnormal EEG tests. Theres more studies to back the " fetal feminization of the brain" theory.

Unfortunately for the TG community, we have people that truely were born with the wrong body, and not to be concidered mentally ill.

And we have those who wish for feminization of the body for perverted and fetishistic reasons, who really arent a woman between the ears. They will be in need of constant therapy, and have a problem with becoming a woman the rest of their lives.
The result of this problem is the way in which Transsexuals & transgenderists have clearly defined themselves as different from the crossdresser or transvestite.

Our movement to unify with the gay community at this point seems to be 50/50, I mean 50 % of us want to politically unite with the gays, and the same for the gays wishing to unite with us. Alot of TG people seem to take this issue the wrong way. Thinking their leaders are trying to say we are gays. With the majority of transsexuals concidering themselves heterosexual women, with some being bisexual. I did not ever see that we were being portrayed by our activists as being gay, rather that we have a definate part of the transgendered community that is homosexual in orientation. And that the TG people as a community are a definate part of the gay community.

The largest growing part of the transsexual community are M-f transsexuals who's sexual orientation is an attraction to females. Post operatives, now known as "Lesbians" . "" By saying that the Transgendered community as a whole is not a part of the gay & lesbian community is ousting a certain group of our own people from our community !! "" Are we to exclude members of the TG community on the basis of Sexual Orientation ? Are the Gay cross dressers also not a part of the new transgendered community. ? Are we claiming not to be a part of the gay community because we wish to run from the effects of Ammendment #2 ?? Or society will like us better if we aren't part of the gay community.

We need to be aware that there are many people thats lable would fall somewhere between the TG and gay communities. Many gay & lesbian couples have a dominante and a submissive relationship, and at least 1 partner may live somewhat of an opposite gender roll within the relationship. I see the G & L people as being somewhat like 4 different sexes, gay men have " Studs & nellies, or tops & bottoms, and lesbians have a masculine & feminine, or lipstick lesbian. " please Excuse my crude lables ". Not very often do I see masculine with masculine Etc.

Gay & lesbian people need to be aware that it blows most transsexuals whole self erception of themselves to think of them selves as gay. However I fully admit to being a ological man, and having had homosexual sex with my husband the last 15 years. Even though I have always concidered myself not to be gay , but a straight woman, and am pretending what is between my legs really isnt there. Until I am post operative I concider my relationship with my husband to be somewhat homosexual. Very few transsexuals attracted to other men can admit that to themselves without ruining there self perception of themselves. This is a part of the reason for the TG peoples distance from gay issues.

How many times lately have I heard TG people saying we dont want to be seen as gay, or some other undesirable part of society. We're just women. In what way is the gay community more undesirable than we are ??? This is the next issue, how we see ourselves and our misconception of how we think others see us.

How does the general public really see us as a whole. Do they see us as a better part of society than gay people. No they dont, they see us as a form of slime much lower than they view gays. Instead of saying some of us dont pass in public, lets say we all pass to different degrees to different people. Lets be honest with ourselves as a community, at least 1/2 of the TG community will not pass to a degree to enough people that they are not quickly seen as a man in a dress, or passes with looks and acts like a man in a dress. Or those of us that still need electrolysis, sometimes after a tough day of shopping or working our makeup goof up in places. Then the public see us exactly the way they see the Bearded lady of the circus, a freek of society. Sex changes or taking hormonce are a very radical thing to most people in America, this is not Amsterdam Toto.

I hope you will all give a good amount of thought to the issues I have raised, and move the transgendered community as a whole, in a positive direction.

Sincerely *Christy Hopping*

Get um Christy from a2

10-16-1993 04:49AM FROM 000 T19[illegible] TO 6356106 P.01

CHRISTY HOPPING

[redacted] SPGS, CO. [redacted]

FAX (719) 598-5886 National Advocate for Trans-sexual Rights

To: The Gender Identity Center of Colora[illegible]
3715 W, 32 nd. Ave. Denver, CO. 8021[illegible]

10/15/93

Attention Directors

I would hope by now you have read my letter I sent you concerning the the problems with the Transgendered rights movements, and especially the issues of medical treatment from doctors and the outdated and unfair Standards of Care many are currently faced with.

I received the enclosed letter today from Your board member Dianna C. , and I can see everything I said about whats wrong with the movements went right over your heads. I am critisized for placing lables , and told to " Stop Being Like a Man !" . The lables are placed on people by society, they have to have a lable for everything now days. I was trying to get across to you that society does not view us the way YOU think they do.

I see that we are not viewed as the [illegible] contributors to society that we are, and I felt the T.G. community was taking on a [illegible] new attitude about ourselves. We dont believe we are Men in dresses, but the [illegible] see the majority of our community as just that. If we are a pillar of society as some portray us as, than why is it we have to hide being transsexual, why are most afraid to use their real last names when addressing [illegible] issues ? We must change the publics view of us and stop living in an underground society.

I was also trying to make you see that T.G.'s , as a community, have groups within ourselves that want and deserve to be called " Part of the gay community". It is my hope that we would unite with the gay community to further promote equal rights and tolerance for all people. I presume we agree that transsexuals are not sick or mentally ill ?

I hate to lable people, everyone should just be called People. Unfortunately we must have lables for certain life occourances. The issue of medical care . Remember what you had to do to get your prescription for hormones, or approval for surgery ? ? More than likely you had to " Prove beyond a shadow of a doubt " that you are transsexual, that you really a woman , and not just a crossdresser. " I had to prove this "

Our current Standards of Care made in 1981 reads like a dictatorship government.!! " No person or place of business should have the right to gain financially , or take part in deciding if and when a change is necessary for a persons happiness, unless the person wishes it to be so." Should M-F transsexuals that are attracted to women have to lie and say their attracted to men to be approved for surgery.? Must we show that we will live a traditional lifestyle with a little house and white picket fences just like June & Ward Cleaver.

In closing " Why am I a T.S. activist ? [illegible] not.! Someone has to speak up to change things. I am an activist who feels strongly about the issues I wish to change. And truely want to make life easier for the next person wishing to start the transsition. I want to see the S.O.C. revised , I want to see the T.G. people unite withthe gay community . T.S.'s should legally use the womens restroom. ETC. And we must put an end to discrimination in jobs and housing for all people.

Would Gender Identity Center tell the women activists who gave them the right to vote to " Stop Being Such a Man about this !"? Would G.I.C. tell Pat Schroeder, or Hillary Clinton that their persistant activism in our nations new health care system was " Unbecoming as a Woman.? "

Sincerely *Christy Hopping*

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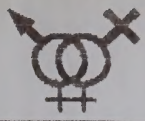
CHRISTY HOPPING

[redacted] COLO. SPGS. CO. [redacted]

FAX (719) 598-5886 National Advocate for Trans-sexual Rights



fo: Gender Identity Center Of Colorado
3715 W. 32nd. Ave. Denver, CO. 80211

10/18/93

To all Directors & Members

Before I say anything else, let me please assure GIC that all the issues I raise to you , and everything I say , is only ment to help GIC. I place a very high value on GIC even though our opinions on transsexualism , women's rights and the gender community differ to such a degree. I always hope GIC will consider the things I say to give you a more diverse opinion of issues to our community. At the risk of loss of friendship I feel the issues I raise and old wounds I open are for the betterment of GIC and not ment to be meen. "and thats the truth"

I have traveled all over this summer and met the different gender communities around the country. I have also in the past couple years done extencive study on the behaviors from a mental standpoint of the gender community. I see that GIC's views of transsexualism and womanhood are not totally congruent with those of our people in the large coastal cities. I feel you have a very concervative traditional view of womanhood and transsexualism.

On the subject of how not agreeing on just who and what we are, has really been hirting any efforts to change the SOC, and how our government treats us in many issues. I realize that my statements of how 2 biological men having sex is homosexual sex, struck a nerve with many T.S.'s. And my explanation that we should be part of the gay community , and sexual orientation issues. These wounds needed reopening for some people. We have alot of self denial within our people.

T.S.'s see ourselves as women, but our government and the public views and treats all the TG people the same as they view the man who occasionally crossdresses. When a TG is arrested or sentenced to prison time , which is more, post op doesnt matter , you will be housed with the men, or if your lucky isolated. TS's housed with men are often raped, and catch aids. A short term sentance to a TS could prove to be a sentance to death ! . We also cannot expect the public or government to grant womens restroom priveledges, or be incarcerated in womens areas to the occasional cross dresser. They will never ever do that, but they may grant these priveledges to transsexuals.

Yes, I did question the femininity of men who occasionally cross dress. I know this may hirt some people but it had to be said. A big reason for transsexuals denial of medical care is because cross dressers keep inundating doctors with requests for hormones. I am not saying that some do not deserve hormones , or anyone should play god in this issue unless it is" for preserving the health of the patient" All Studies show that theres a good chance that taking hormones will ruine the life of the occasional cross dresser, that they may decide that isnt what they wanted after a couple years... In the past 20 years the occasional cross dresser has failed to prove to medical or mental health professionals legitimate reasons for hormone treatment. This is why doctors are so afraid of all of us.

This summer I have sent now over 1000 copies of a 4 page questionaire I prepared to our nations doctors that helps them to tell just where the patient is coming from. I promised to share the questionaire only with medical professionals, and I have done so. Several doctors have now contacted me stating they are using parts of this questionaire, and disreguarding parts of the SOC. This is the first step in opening up medical care for our people, as some doctors are now less afraid to deal with the issues we present to them.
Lets be practical, if we are to change the SOC for the better, we cannot justify giving hormones to anyone that walks in the door and asks for them. The medical mal practice insurers, and doctors will tell us to get lost. The questionaire I made cuts out no one that is not ready in my mind to begin hormone treatment no matter what lable thay choose for themselves.

Take care of yourselves
Love Christy

CHRISTY HOPPING
[redacted]
FAX (719) 598-5886 National Advocate for Trans-sexual Rights

To: Dianna C.
Board of Directors For G.I.C.

10/18/93

[redacted]

In responce to your letter you sent me [illegible] which you continually throughout the letter question my femininity. You are doing the typical GIC thing, by judging people by at what point they are in transsition. Even Jo[illegible]an Stringer complains of this practice of Colorado GIC in her Transsexual Survival Guide. But I have seen many groups such as yours do exactly the same thing. That [illegible] loses you alot of members each year, alot.

You have not either acheived womanhood Dianna "C". You live as a woman, but still live within the underground society of GIC. You [illegible] out as a woman but in the closet as a transsexual. I have yet to see biological [illegible] women use initials as their last name. It is not illegal to be transsexual, or admit to [illegible]g such. If you are ever arrested you will quickly find out that the government will [illegible] you like a man. Living in an underground society makes people view you as if you have something to be ashamed of, and is a detriment to the transsexual rights movement. You poped out of your mother a biological man, and maby it makes you feel better to publically deny that. GIC has done nothing in many years to change societies view of transsexuals. We are still men in dresses to them.

Countless callers to the helpline I ran complained of GIC's backward Aunt Martha view of womanhood and transsexualism. And felt many of your teachings on transsexualism to be rediculous. I have never before seen a group of claimed transsexuals have to constantly remind themselves they are women, as I see in your members. You either are or you arent. Uniting any 2 groups the TG community is like trying to make red and black ants live in the same hole in the ground.

You are wrong about the issue of femininity. The only thing medical & mental health professionals, myself and the public [illegible] feminine about heterosexual Men who crossdress , is the atire that they wear. They do not want more rights, they are happy as long as they can dress up a few times a month and have a place to go . Yes they are fetishistic ! A compilation of studies show that most all men who cross dress do so mainly as a pre turn on to a masterbation session, nearly 00%. The studies say the same thing about transvestism, however mentions the alternate feminine self of a transvestite. Through personal experience I agree with these studies. No wonder doctors are afraid of us. I do see feminity in T.V.'s. and transgenderists.

You can call me a Man if you want , why not call me what a local religous rights leader called me " A Big City, Liberal Hippie Fag[illegible] Transsexual ". Calling me names wont change or slow my crusade for fair treatment [illegible] sexuals. Things will change, or I will die trying. For I refuse to live any longer in your underground society .

Would GIC tell the women who fought for their right to vote to " Stop acting like a Man" ?? Would you tell Hillarie Clinton that her activism for health care was " Unbecomming as a Woman." ??

Sincerely Christy "H"